# 25 Children a Blessing

Mrs. Sam Swartwood Joys of Motherhood

Chapter after chapter might be writ- chair was shiny and the paint had long funny, isn't it, that a mother can hard- Reajamin and Earl and Jesse and Ar- "Thirteen I was. It seems very bleeding, stubbed too to be bound up, to even get our washing done. ing her phenomenally large family. still living. She is an intelligent family dinner was merrily boiling and teen boys," eight miles from Wilkesbarre.

both born, and here, too, in the com- it was, fortable eight room house in which they are living, were born their twenty-five sons and daughters.

children, and I'm proud of it," declar- tinued Mrs. Swartwood, shifting the off slowly on her fingers: ed Mrs. Swartwood, swinging back baby from her right arm to her left. "There's Walter-he's the oldest- I've had twenty-five bables." and forth in her low wooden rocking "How many girls and how many boys? and Louis and Thaddeus and Herbert Married at Thirteen Years. chair in an effort to hush the sleepy, Well, now, I'm blessed if I can tell you and Warren and Samuel and Daniel fretful baby in her arms. The rocking without stopping to count them. It's and Alonzo and Elmer and Calvin and young," I suggested.

sat was a big, sunshiny room, with a Ruth make four, five six; Gertrude is into the adjoining bedroom. American born woman of forty-three bubbling. Three hot cheeked girls, the generations in the beautiful Wyoming positing piece by piece on the clothes troning. Valley, in Pennsylvania, and she and horse innumerable small shirts and Here Mr. and Mrs. Swartwood were vellous display of home laundry work mother's eyes.

### Had to Stop and Count Them.

ten about the management of Mrs. since been worn off. It had been one ly ever say right off how many boys tour. That makes fourteen, doesn't young now, but then nobody thought He howled as only a small boy with a "What is the greatest difficulty?

"Didn't ? Well, then, Lottie makes corner of her apron.

names?" I asked.

Counts Them on Her Fingers.

her mouth and eyes. it'."

"You must have been married very

riages?" echoed Mrs. Swartwood dage. "When any of them got hurt or to find money to buy material; but 1 Mrs. Swartwood has borne twenty- mammoth dining table and a big, high- seven, Flora eight. Eather and -- and On the porch and in the yard behind "Well, I believe in them. I think it sick there was nobedy who could sooth managed to get through all right, and five children, eighteen of whom are ly polished cook stove, on which the Edith, that's ten-ten girls and fif- the house the younger children were best for girls to marry young though them but me." playing and shouting at the top of not so very young as I married. I don't Mrs. Swartwood kissed away the wore out three sewing machines doing "You didn't count Lottle, mother," their voices. Mrs. Swartwood breath- believe they ought to marry young just fears on the small boy's cheek, and it though, and that is my fourth," years. Her ancestors have lived for elder daughters, were ironing, and de remarked one of the girls who was ed a sigh of relief and wiped the per- for the sake of marrying, however; but he limped out to resume his game of policing to the new cabinet machine spiration from her forehead with a if a good chance comes along and the hop scotch. young folk love each other, I think it "Maybe you won't believe it," re- "I am afraid sometimes I am not

"Yes, there's twenty-five-two dozen Mrs. Swartwood wrinkled her brow when the girl had returned. "I just much of a sin to bring children into less work." "Yes, I'm the mother of twenty-five and one more for good measure," con reflectively and began, counting them want you to see for yourself. Some the world when their parents have a Never Had Any Household Help. people won't believe me when I say hard time to support even themselves?"

A Bleeding Stubbed Toe.

methods pursued by that lady in rais- The kitchen where Mrs. Swartwood Blanche three, May and Elsie and carried the unconscious little burden "What do I think about early mar wood, as she tenderly wound the ban them covered, and it took nip and tuck

her husband, a locomotive engine driv- "pantles" and aprons for the very lit- eleven-that's it, I remember now-, She is a dark eyed, dark haired wo best for them to marry right off. When sumed the mother, "but it's true that thankful enough for my blessings. er, are among the most highly respect- tle ones, and garments of all descrip- eleven girls and fourteen boys. Surely man, of medium weight and height, a couple love each other I think it is I didn't find it any fiarder to take care. Here I have my eighteen healthy, ed people of Mountain Top, a village tions and ever increasing size for the I ought not to forget those numbers and not at all robust in appearance. A a sin for them not to marry, no differ of eighteen or twenty children than I hearty children all about me. other members of the family. A mar again," and a tired smile crept into the tired smile—the smue of the patient ence how poor they are. I think it is did one or two. The more children They are all good, honest boys and mother who never knows a moment's a sin for them to walt years and years, you have the easier you find the care girls. I never heard one of my boys "And the boys; what are their rest-hovers almost perpetually about until, as they imagine, they 'can afford of them; and then you learn how to do utter an oath, and I never knew one of things in the simplest way, and you them to take a drink of whiskey. The

"And you've never kept any help?" I suggested.

yard, and a small boy came in with a say not! We were always too poor lived to grow up.

"Sam" Swartwood, and much interest.
ing data, domestic, scientific and moral, be deduced from a study of the college in that same chair.

"Sam" Swartwood, and much interest.
ing data, domestic, scientific and moral, be deduced from a study of the rocked to sleep in that same chair.

"Sam" Swartwood, and much interest.
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"Sam" Swartwood, and much interest.

"Now, let me see, There's Maude, and the child in her without counting them every time.

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"That was the way with the whole my first fifteen or sixteen children and twenty," remarked Mrs. Swart were small it kept me busy keeping the house of the move of the seed of the move o to keep them always looking neat. I

"Ruth, bring me the Bible," she said, "But don't you think it is just as also learn how to save yourself use older boys work over in the railroad yards with their father, and bring their

night. No mother ever had so many such good, dutiful children as I have, "Help!" exclaimed Mrs. Swartwood, and yet I sometimes get very unhappy Here a loud scream came from the in amazement. "Help! well I should -thinking if only the other seven had

## THE GOLDEN BALL



## SIMON T. STERN

When the sons of King Beneficent , the splendid trophy. His brothers he boited the door on the inside. Then were very young they went to school, saw, and flouted him. "Work away, he opened a secret door that led from the Wizard Wiseman acting as their you grind," said they derisively. his room to his father's library. He good as the other two." the Wizard Wiseman acting as their "Writing poetry is a talent, not drudg- walked softly along the passageway teacher. One spring day he called the ery. We shall not work half as hard until he reached the library. Once "Quite so." said Richard. "Me that that you can ask of no man." three young princes to his cell and and I dare say our poems shall be there he took down from the topmost

NAVY AT THE CORONATION

spoke to them as follows: Princes, I give you greeting, I want nothing and continued his work.

en ball that sparkled in the sunlight.

by tomorrow I shall give this golden time they were not only rivals to Rich- and replaced the book. Then he went ball," and he held out a splendid gold- ard, but to each other. John went at back to his room. once to his room and James to his. That night the other prince, John, The youngest prince, Richard, went Each of them had already concocted a went into the library. He, too, took at once to his room and started in to plan, and they were impatient to start. down a book. He, too, copied a poem. write, for he was very anxious to win As soon as James reached the room Then, exulting in his own shrewdness

twice as good." But Richard said shelf the oldest volume of poetry he they are gems, and so evenly balanced could find. "Nobody will ever know," each of you to write a poem. To the John and James were quite as enger said he to himself, "and I must win them. Both are very, very fine." one who writes the best original poem as he to gain the golden ball; this that golden ball." He copied a poem

he went back to his room. The next day they all handed in AMAZING EXPLOIT their work and awaited the Wizard's decision.

It was four days before he sent for them. "Richard," said he to the youngest

prince, "your poem is not nearly as "I did my best," said Richard. "More

"Quite so," said the Wizard Wise

in merit that I cannot choose between

the prize in common." "I said nothing about a prize," re joined the Wizard. "I merely said that both of your poems were very. very written by one of our most illustrious poets. You copied yours, John; you Serious Results of copied yours, James, and the funniest part of it is that you both copied the same poem. There they are-word for

word alike. So Richard got the prize after all. "Boys," said the Wizard, as he gave "it is a fine thing to be clever, but the man who is too clever often over

And John and James ruefully looked tionaries, and said they guessed he

## and don't move a bit. if you do, I'll reaches himself." stick your head out of the window, up the word "overreach" in their die-

## THE CAPTIVE CROCUS

in through the window. He appeared to be more outside than inside, and whenever a telegraph pole whizzed by and looked especially close, he would! make a lunge for it, as if trying to

made a grab for the boy just as the Twin warders watched her night latter made a lunge for a pole. He pulled him in by the heels, laid him over his knees, and began to fulfil his promise. The little fellow yelled and yelled until he almost drowned out the .\* A prince came riding through the \* noise of the train, but during a full in the uproar the father heard a snicker behind him. He laid the boy down and turned to see what it meant.

There, two seats behind and across the aisle, was his son, with two fingers \* stuffed in his mouth to keep his merri. . O'erthrew the ancient king. ment in. The man rubbed his eyes \* And happy lovers forth they and looked again, but there was no \* mistrates.

The Office Boy's Mischief. er seen before. He had spanked some hind the tears was a face he had nev-News.

> "Drop-y something!" she said, shak- Bibber raised the sash and fished in a established, under the auspices of the big card. In crude but distinct letters Academy of Science of Gottlingen, a

> > : ORGAN GRINDERS STOP HERE.

tempted to throw one persistent con-manded. "Y-yes, sir!" stammered the boy. What did you do it for?"

"I was lonesome, sir."

but if an organ grinder ever stops out other organ arrived. This object of "Want them?" growled Van Bibber, here again I'll throw you out of the



## D. B. WAGGENER

for somebody to give you a new kind filled with water. man. "As for your brothers' poems, of amusement. All at once a boy Then the boy takes off his coat—you exfend in various directions. That is

do not care. You can bestow on us a sheet of cardboard.

Of course you all laugh and try to tub, and with them thus submerged ting will be only in the direction of the show him that you are not to be fooled he begins the cutting.

steps out and says that he has learned will excuse him under the circum due to the vibrations caused by the how to cut a pane of glass with a pair stances-and rolls his shirt sfeeves scissors, but plunge both scissors and

der the surface of the water in the brations are deadened, so that the cut-

by affy such nonsense as that, for you Naturally you wonder at the feat scissors.

Let us suppose that you are having think he is merely guying you. But for you think it a feat, no doubt, a little party at your house and that the boy is in earnest, and says he is whereas it is a very simple demonstrayou have played lots of games, caten ready to prove that he can do it if you tion of a law of physics. If you atyou have played lots of games, caten will furnish him with a pair of scistempt to cut glass with a pair of scistors of good things, and are waiting sors, a pane of glass and a tub partly sors under ordinary circumstances it

will break into bits, and the break will them. Both are very, very fine."

Do not trouble yourself further, said John and James, overjoyed: "we as easily as if the pane of glass were do not care. You can bestow on us.

pressure made by the blades of the

## Cat and Dog Hatred

Everybody knows how much a dog and cat hate each other, but it is very seldom that their dislikes lead to such serious results as did a difference that lately occurred between a buildog and a black cat in a fruit store.

The owner of the buildog used to let him run around in the cellar for exertse, but one morning the dog got tired of his narrow quarters, and went up stairs, into a neighboring fruit store, where the black cat lived.

Of course, the cat did not like to have any one come into her home without an invitation, much less one of her old natural enemies-the dogs. So as soon as the dog entered out jumped he cat full upon him, and, of course, a fight followed, which naturally drew into it the owner of the fruit store and The owner of the dog.

The dog, being very lively, soon turned over several baskets of fruit and upset the stands of oranges and peanuts, while their masters were vainly trying to selfle the row. As there seemed no early settlement in sight, the owner of the cat and fruit stand called in a policeman, but in the meantime the dog had virtually gotten the best of the fight, baving caught the cat by the neck, and all the coaxing and pulling would not persuade him to let go

The owner of the dog pulled and pounded, and the policeman, seeing a way out, put his "billy" between Bruno's teeth and pried open his jaws, only to find that the cat was so badly mangled that it had to be killed, which the policeman did with two bullets from his revolver.

Bruno's owner settling the difference by paying the damage, they both went out, after having learned once more that cats and dogs have a standing disagreement that in but few instances is overcome:

times grown men-have a very funny out of the water. way of catching fish.

so I might just as well tell you right pace." off. It was an English boy who told m about it.

"You must first catch a goose," he said, "and that is the hardest part.

"Then let her go. She'll make for tion of her friends, sat one evening. the water every shot, and as she watching an industrious spider spinswims about she, of course, drags book ning its web in a window corner. She When a person dies his nearest relaand line after her.

gets hooked.

## TO SUCCEED MARTINELLI



Mgr. Falconio has been selected by Pope Leo to succeed Cardinal Marteineili as Papal delegate to the United States at Washington. Mgr. Falconto will not enter upon his important duties until October next. He has been selected for his diplomacy, profound learning and perfect command of 

"Then the goose feels something "It is making a web, dear." tugging at her log, and she swims along about as hard as she can, but this only makes the tugging worse, child." The only way to get away from that Helen was silent for a moment, then In England the boys-and some awful something, she thinks, is to get exclaimed:

"So with wildly beating wings she You would never guess what it is, makes for the shore at a rattling buzzing flies?" And then, in a tone

Then you tie a line which has a baited A little 3-year old of my acquaint hook on one end, to the goose's leg, ance, whose quick wit is the admira-

"What does it want a web for?"

"To trap flies for its dinner, my

"Oh! Does it eat boosin flies, papa?"

Boosin flies, child? Don't you mean which implied a depreciation in her juvenile opinion of the paternal infallibility, she repled:

"Why, no, papa. Don't you know-Jesus, lover of my soul. Let me to Thy bosom fly?"

### Sensible Money Savers.

There are no undertakers in Japan. watched the insect intently for a tives put him into a coffin and bury "Pretty soon a fish bites and maybe time, and, turning to her father, asked: him. The mourning does not begin un-"What is the spider doing, papa?" til after burial.

## Ward, flag lieutenant. CONTRACTOR Music That Had No Charms.

torture had a sprained roller, and "why, I'd like to scalp half a dozen."

was furious.

Admiral Crowninshield, Ad-

miral Schley's bitter enemy,

after being appointed to the

command of the European

squadron, sails for Europe on

his flagship the Illinois. With

him are Lieut, Charles Web-

ster, flag secretary of the na-

vy. and Lieut. Henry Heber

bug' ward, he stormed, throwing "I'll drop a brick!" yelied Van Bib- was this invitation: down his pen and rushing to the win- ber, advancing menacingly. "You peoto keep these nerve wreckers away, here. Understand?" don't give them anything."

smiling foreigner extended his awar censed to the fighting point. He at- "Are you the author of this?" he dethy hand.

I don't want to hear any of your music. still they came. and slammed the door. Then, after illuminated with a broad smile.

squeaky notes of a barrel organ float- ber could rise from his chair a buxom "I'm not 'jollying." Go see what is ed up from the street. Van Bibber signorita arrived with a tambourine. hanging out of your window." Van "As enough to drive a feilow to the ing the tambourine vigorously.

dow. "I'll have to appeal to the police people have got to keep away from Why on earth do they stop here? I At frequent intervals during the day o an organ would start playing under the Van Bibber slowly raised his eyes Just then the door opened and a office window. Van Bibber was in toward the office boy.

'No, I haven't anything for you and cert collector down the stairway, but During the afternoon the young real Van Bibber pushed the intruder out estate man dropped in. His face was

the squeaking had ceased, he resumed "You must be fond of music, old nose and roared: work at his desk. Hardly had be made man," he said," to want all those or "All right, I'll excuse you this time, an entry in the big ledger before an gan grinders around."

when it started to play "Go 'Way Back | "But you invited them." and Sit Down ' it was enough to pro . "Quit 'jollying'."

## The Wrong Boy Got the Spanking

A Detroit man was traveling with his son, and wishing to transact some business with the conductor, ne caid: the golden ball to the youngest prince, 'Now, Willie, Tm going to be away just a few minutes. You sit right here spank you good and hard. So don't You might have it taken off, if you do: then you wouldn't have any head, and was right. you'd get a spanking besides."

The father went away to find the conductor. After a few minutes he

There was little Willie, just his feet | \* and the seat of his trousers sticking

The father did not hesitate. He

He looked at the boy in his lap. Be | \* other man's son.-Galveston Daily

NOTICE.

Van Bibber was silent. Then he shook his finger under the youngster's

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little maid with golden hair, When winter snows were deep, Was prisoned in a narrow cell

Within a donjon deep. Her captor was a wizard king. Tyrannical and old:

and day.

Their names were Dark and Cold.

wood. His waving plume was green, And tnick with crystal broidery fils tunic's silken sneen.

. He slew the warders in their tower.

went The crocus and the spring MINNA IRVING

Near Apia, in Samoa, will soon be magnetic observatory, of which Professor A. Nippoldt, the Berlin astronomer, will be the director. The reasons why Apia has been selected are because it is to the south of the magnetic equator and because at an equal distance to the north is the Observa-

tory of Honolulu. The meteorologists at these two stations will make investigations in regard to Terrestrial magnetism, atmospheric electricity, meteorology and seismology. That their labors will result in adding a good deal to our present knowledge of these subjects is regarded by European scientists as certain.

Stella-So Mabel's married! Who's Bella-Don't think there is any .-